

logistical and political support for the Taliban's military effort against legitimate representative political alternatives. The Taliban, as a matter of policy, produces heroin and purposely exports it to the West. The Taliban have been giving refuge to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist, who is responsible for the deaths of American diplomats. And the Taliban's policy of systematic repression of women is barbaric and unacceptable to both Western, Eastern, Islamic, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist or Jewish cultures.

The Taliban must be stopped. Their existence and growth threatens the current regional movement towards representative forms of government.

One year ago, India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons. Severe sanctions were swiftly imposed by U.S. law. Since then we have seen a slow but steady effort by Washington and New Delhi to resolve our differences. Regrettably, the effort has not gone as fast as some of us would like. To a large degree it has been slowed down by a misperception by the State Department of India's motivations for the testing. While I am a strong supporter of nuclear non proliferation it is curious that foggy Bottom has difficulty understanding India's concerns about China's regional intentions. China has given nuclear and ballistic weapon support to Pakistan on India's western border. China has a close relationship with Burma's narcodictatorship on India's eastern border having shipped over \$1.4 billion in arms to Rangoon. And of course China brutally occupies Tibet on India's northern border . . . the Tibetan/Indian border is bristling with PLA troops.

Even more puzzling, has been the Administration's failure to acknowledge how State Department policy has helped to bring about India's sense of insecurity by inadequately responding to China's violation of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. We must not forget that China sold and transferred nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan.

If India, or any other nation, is expected to refrain from building a nuclear deterrent, then the U.S. and other nuclear powers must ensure that these non nuclear nations are not bullied by their nuclear neighbors.

Earlier this month, the Senate adopted legislation that has many provisions regarding current sanctions against India and Pakistan. One provision would suspend sanctions against India and Pakistan for a period of five years. While I strongly favor this, I very much oppose a provision in the bill that unconditionally repeals the Pressler amendment. As you must recall, the Pressler amendment requires the President certify to the Congress that Pakistan is not developing nuclear weapons.

The question is, why on earth with Pakistan supplying critical support for the Taliban do we want this time to reward Pakistan by unconditionally lifting the Pressler amendment?

It also should be noted that Pakistan has provided China with assistance that is detrimental to our national security.

The Lahore Summit established a framework for bilateral cooperation and reconciliation between India and Pakistan. Lahore gives hope for the new Indian government that will be elected in September to carry the process forward in Pakistan. Pakistan should with-

draw its forces and get on with it commendable efforts begun in Lahore.

Our own bilateral relationship with India should not be dominated by security issues. The relationship should remain as broad as what we enjoy with other democracies.

India's economic growth, and U.S. investment to help spur that growth, should be at the top of our mutual agenda. India's vast pool of highly trained English speaking professionals offers our nation critical resources in our efforts to stay competitive and to remain the world's leader in high tech industry. We need to offer India a security and economic partnership.

India's testing must be understood in terms of its verifiable, objective security concerns and how the world's nuclear powers have responded to those concerns. Any changes to the Pressler amendment should be considered in terms of U.S. national interests in relation to Pakistan's behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I will soon be introducing legislation regarding sanctions against India and Pakistan. However, before we consider any changes in the law affecting Pakistan there must be fundamental changes in the Government in Pakistan. We cannot support a government that permits and encourages actions that lead to the murder of Americans or any other innocent civilians.

According, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 227.

H. RES. 227

Whereas the United States has a vital interest in ensuring stability in South Asia, reducing tensions between India and Pakistan, and preventing the spread of terrorism;

Whereas Pakistani-backed armed forces and, reportedly Pakistani regulars, have crossed from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir, India, and occupied Indian military positions that were temporarily abandoned for the winter season;

Whereas this incursion has the financial and military support of Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan's strategy is to support the armed incursion into Kashmir and renegotiate the Line of Control;

Whereas the Indian armed forces have been forced into action to defend the territory on the Indian side of the Line of Control and push the terrorists and Pakistani military forces out;

Whereas Pakistani armed forces, reportedly, are involved in these incursions;

Whereas the actions by Pakistan are contrary to the Lahore Declaration, an agreement between India and Pakistan to promote regional stability, peace, and security in South Asia;

Whereas the forces include well-trained and heavily armed Afghans and Pakistanis associated with Osama bin Laden, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, and the Government of Pakistan; and

Whereas the Group of Eight (comprised of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and Russia) on June 20, 1999, called for an immediate end to the hostilities, restoration of the Line of Control, full respect in the future for the Line of Control, and resumption of the dialogue between India and Pakistan in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives—

(1) that it should be the policy of the United States to oppose the Government of

Pakistan's support for armed incursion into Jammu and Kashmir, India;

(2) that it should be the policy of the United States to support the immediate withdrawal of intruding forces supported by Pakistan from the Indian side of the Line of Control, to urge the reestablishment and future respect for the Line of Control, and to encourage all sides to end the fighting and exercise restraint;

(3) that it should be the policy of the United States to encourage both India and Pakistan to adhere to the principles of the Lahore Declaration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 25, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote No. 256.

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN?
THOUGHTS FOR INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, while participating in the recent Memorial Day observance at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in my District, I was privileged to hear an inspired essay about what it means to be an American. This essay was composed and presented by Elizabeth [Liz] Bokan, a student at Washington Middle School in Seattle. Many of us in the audience were deeply moved by Ms. Bokan's eloquence. Her words lend us confidence that our future as a nation is in the good hands of enthusiastic and creative younger generations.

Mr. Speaker, many of us will celebrate Independence Day by participating in naturalization ceremonies, helping to welcome new citizens to our ranks. I proudly offer Ms. Bokan's essay to all my colleagues as we return to our districts to renew the bonds that hold us together as a nation this July 4th.

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN?

Are you an American? Ask yourself this, and you come upon the easy answer, well yes, I am an American, as I am a citizen of America. But I ask you, is there not more to being an American? And how does a true patriot respond to pressure on one's beliefs, while maintaining the presence of mind that is characteristic of being an American?

In my school, I have been taking a class on American History. The truth will always hurt, no less in the sense of what this country great. I have learned of battles fought, and unnecessary blood spilled, and to what cause? Yet reading these texts, and seeing these illustrations of great American heroes, one thing seems to shine through. The pride individuals appear to hold in their home, in their title, and in their love for themselves and their people. Does that not signify that